

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method of distributed collaborative computing comprising:
 - 5 partitioning a collaboration function into sub-functions;
 - assigning at least one said sub-function to each of a plurality of logical processes;
 - associating a respective management process with
 - 10 each of said plurality of logical processes, said logical processes configured so that each said logical process is capable of communicating with every other said logical process thru said respective management
 - 15 process;
 - communicating between said logical processes using said respective management processes;
 - monitoring said respective management processes with a single supervisor process.
- 20 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said collaboration function comprises real-time conferencing.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said collaboration function comprises application sharing.
- 25 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said collaboration function comprises document sharing.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said sub-
functions comprise collaboration serving, application
serving, log serving, license management, and meeting
management and wherein each said sub-function forms at
5 least one logical server.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein said logical
processes are instantiated on at least one physical
server.

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7. A computer program for use in distributed
collaborative computing, comprising computer
instructions for:

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partitioning a collaboration function into sub-
functions;
assigning at least one said sub-function to each
of a plurality of logical processes;
associating a respective management process with
each of said plurality of logical processes,
20 said logical processes configured so that
each said logical process is capable of
communicating with every other said logical
process thru said respective management
process;

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communicating between said logical processes using
said respective management processes;
monitoring said respective management processes
with a single supervisor process.

8. The computer program of Claim 7, wherein said collaboration function comprises real-time conferencing.

9. The computer program of Claim 7, wherein said
5 collaboration function comprises application sharing.

10. The computer program of Claim 7, wherein said collaboration function comprises document sharing.

11. The computer program of Claim 7, wherein said sub-functions comprise collaboration serving,
10 application serving, log serving, license management, and meeting management and wherein each said sub-function forms at least one logical server.

12. The computer program of Claim 7, wherein said logical processes are instantiated on at least one
15 physical server.

13. A computer-readable medium storing a computer program executable by a plurality of server computers,
20 the computer program comprising computer instructions for:

partitioning a collaboration function into sub-
functions;
assigning at least one said sub-function to each
25 of a plurality of logical processes;
associating a respective management process with
each of said plurality of logical processes,
said logical processes configured so that

each said logical process is capable of communicating with every other said logical process thru said respective management process;

- 5 communicating between said logical processes using said respective management processes; monitoring said respective management processes with a single supervisor process.

10 14. The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, wherein said collaboration function comprises real-time conferencing.

15 15. The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, wherein said collaboration function comprises application sharing.

16. The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, wherein said collaboration function comprises document sharing.

17. The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, wherein said sub-functions comprise collaboration serving, application serving, log serving, license management, and meeting management and wherein each said sub-function forms at least one logical server.

18. The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, wherein said logical processes are instantiated on at least one physical server.

19. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave, comprising computer instructions for:

partitioning a collaboration function into sub-functions;

5 assigning at least one said sub-function to each of a plurality of logical processes;

associating a respective management process with each of said plurality of logical processes,

10 said logical processes configured so that each said logical process is capable of communicating with every other said logical process thru said respective management process;

15 communicating between said logical processes using said respective management processes;

monitoring said respective management processes with a single supervisor process.

20 20. The computer data signal of Claim 19, wherein said collaboration function comprises real-time conferencing.

21. The computer data signal of Claim 19, wherein said collaboration function comprises application sharing.

25 22. The computer data signal of Claim 19, wherein said collaboration function comprises document sharing.

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physical server.